

NOTES ON SOME SPECIES OF MITRIDÆ, WITH THE DESCRIPTION
OF *M. BRETTINGHAMI*, n.sp.

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CONSIDERABLE confusion exists respecting the names which should be applied to certain species of *Mitra* which have been described and figured in the various monographs of this genus under the names *M. versicolor*, *M. nebulosa*, *M. propinqua*, and *M. infecta*, and in order to clear up the confusion I beg to submit the following notes and synonymy.

MITRA VERSICOLOR, Martyn.

Mitra versicolor, Martyn, Univers. Conch., vol. i, fig. 23; Reeve, Conch. Icon., vol. ii, fig. 2; Sowerby, Thesaurus Conch., vol. iv, fig. 44; Tryon, Man. Conch., vol. iv, pl. xxxii, fig. 6; Dohrn, Malak. Blätt., 1861, vol. viii, p. 134.

Voluta nubila, Gmelin, Syst. nat., p. 3450.

Hab.—Friendly Is. (Martyn); Zanzibar (Reeve); Viti and Tonga Is. (Garrett).

In rectifying the synonymy of this species, Dohrn unfortunately fell into an error with regard to the next, having overlooked a note respecting it by A. Adams in the Proc. Zool. Soc. for 1851.

MITRA PROPINQUA, A. Adams.

Mitra propinqua, A. Adams, Proc. Zool. Soc., 1851, p. 270.

M. nebulosa, Reeve (*non* Swainson) Broderip, Conch. Icon., vol. ii, fig. 3; Sowerby, Thes. Conch., vol. iv, pl. ccliv, fig. 39.

M. versicolor, partim, Tryon, Man. Conch., vol. iv, pl. xxxii, figs. 7, 8 (*bad*); Kiener (*non* Martyn), Coq. Viv., pl. vii, fig. 18.

M. erronea, Dohrn, Malak. Blätt., 1861, vol. viii, p. 134.

Hab.—Madagascar (Reeve); Zanzibar (Sowerby and Mus. Cuming); Viti and Tonga Is. (Garrett).

This species is very closely related to the preceding, *M. versicolor*, and it is possible that an extended series of specimens might afford the connecting links. It seems to be a more slender form, more strongly punctate in the striae, and the coloration is not quite the same.

MITRA BRETTINGHAMI, n.sp.

Mitra propinqua, Sowerby (*non* A. Adams), Thesaurus Conch., vol. iv, p. 3, pl. cclvi, fig. 59; Tryon, Man. Conch., vol. iv, p. 112, pl. xxxiii, fig. 11.

Testa anguste ovato-fusiformis, alba, strigis longitudinalibus rufofuscis, irregularibus, plus minus undulatis, picta, transversim sulcata, sulcis angustissimis, minute punctatis; spira producta, acuminata; anfractus 12(?), apicales abrupti, ceteri leviter convexiusculi, sutura paululum obliqua sejuncti, ultimus antice leviter ascendens; apertura alba, longit. totius $\frac{1}{2}$ paulo minor; labrum subincrassatum, ad marginem denticulatum; columella quinque-plicata, infra medium

callo crasso induta, callo interdum sursum producto et labro juncto. Long. 70, diam. 23.5 mm. ; apertura 33 mm. longa, 8 lata.

Hab.—?

The transverse punctate sulci are eight to nine in number on the penultimate whorl, and about six on the upper whorls. There are about twenty-five on the body-whorl, exclusive of those upon the extreme anterior end.

In 1874, when the late Mr. Sowerby published his monograph of the genus *Mitra*, three specimens of the present species in the British Museum from the Cuming Collection were labelled "*propinqua*, A. Ad." These the late Mr. Sowerby, evidently without investigation, regarded as correctly named. However, as pointed out by Tryon, they belong to quite a distinct species, and it is to be regretted that he did not at the time give it a distinctive name. The name *propinqua* was subsequently used by Garrett¹ for two species of Mitridæ, namely, *Mitra propinqua*, from the Society Islands, and *Turricula propinqua* from the Viti Islands. As nothing is known of these species beyond their descriptions, no figures of them having yet appeared, it seems advisable at present not to suggest fresh names for them, but to wait until we have more evidence of their validity as distinct species.

A few months ago Mr. Sowerby kindly called my attention to this confusion of nomenclature, and therefore, with his permission, I have associated with this fine but hitherto wrongly named species the name of Brettingham, a patronymic connected with five successive generations of the Sowerby family.

MITRA NEBULOSA, Broderip.

Mitra nebulosa (Swainson, MSS.), Broderip, Proc. Zool. Soc., 1835, p. 193 ; Dohrn, Malak. Blätt., 1861, vol. viii, p. 134.

M. infecta, Reeve, Proc. Zool. Soc., 1844, p. 173 ; Conch. Icon., vol. ii, fig. 75 ; Tryon, Man. Conch., vol. iv, pl. xlvii, fig. 377.

Hab—Annaa I., Paumotu Archipelago.

Reeve was the first to cause confusion with regard to this species, and, although his error was pointed out by Dohrn, the correction was not noted by the late Mr. Sowerby in his monograph of the genus.² On p. 17 he observes: "Erroneously represented in Reeve as a smooth shell." This remark, however, is not correct, for Reeve carefully described the species as "encircled with impressed striæ," which are also faintly indicated in the figure. The shell figured by Mr. Sowerby as *M. infecta* (pl. cclxxviii, fig. 607) has quite strong transverse sulci, and appears to me to represent another species. Tryon, as was his wont, made matters worse by lumping together the typical form, Sowerby's version of it, and the *M. Barclayi* of Hanley. The last species is certainly distinct, but allied to *M. abbatís*. It is, however, more finely striated, and has not the turreted whorls of that species, although it closely resembles it in style of coloration.

¹ Journ. of Conch., vol. iii (1880), pp. 22 and 58.

² Thes. Conch., vol. iv (1874).